

# The Weekly Fishing News

September 19, 2019

Cordova

Alaska

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Greetings Fellow Anglers!

First and foremost, there is an important news release from our local Alaska Department of Fish and Game office regarding sportfishing for coho salmon that I need to share with everyone.

*The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is prohibiting the use of bait on the Copper River Highway streams effective 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, September 18 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019. The Copper River Highway streams include all freshwaters drainages crossed by the Copper River Highway from and including Eyak River to the Million Dollar Bridge, including Clear Creek at mile 42 downstream of the Carbon Mountain Road Bridge.*

This action was taken in response to low escapement numbers observed across the Copper River Delta. The drought conditions this summer have likely impeded fish migration. Let's all do our part and play the game according to the rules so we can keep enjoying this fantastic resource into the future.

Ibeck Creek has seen a pulse of larger than average fish moving through the system. Cohos weighing well into the teens have been making a regular appearance putting smiles on a lot of faces!



*Kristin M. and her brother trying to out-do each other with Ibeck Creek Monsters! Whose do you think is bigger?!*

With water levels rising, fish have been pushing up into some of the smaller streams as well. 18-mile creek has been producing fish both in the pool right on the highway and lower down in the stream for anglers willing to make the hike down the Forest Service trail to the lower pools on the other side of Haystack.

Likewise, cohos are showing up in 20-mile creek at the improved fish passage culvert in Goose Meadows and some of the backwaters along the highway near Sheridan River. Look for areas of clear water sloughs mixing with the turbid glacial water and hang on!



*Sheridan lake from the end of the Sheridan Lake trail. Coho salmon can be caught this time of year where the turbid water from this lake meets clear slough water along the Copper River Highway.*

With the fish moving on a mission, and water stained from the rain runoff, it may be a little slower fishing with artificial lures than you're used to. I was out on Wednesday with two other anglers who were both fly fishing. Talking to several groups of people along the way, we heard much of the same thing: "We're seeing plenty of fish, but they've got lockjaw and just aren't biting". It took us a little while for us to figure it out, but the trick was to just slow... down. Working weighted flies and spinners slowly along the bottom and letting them swing down into current seams was the key and we wound up catching (and safely releasing) 15 cohos over the course of the day. I wonder how many of the people we spoke to had just been burning spinners two feet over the heads of salmon that never saw them and never got the chance to bite.

**Good Luck and I'll see you on the water!**

**--Dan**

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